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### [Published by request.] The Evacuation of Winchester. A Defense of General Milroy-A True Statement.

The eagerness with which certain papers in the country have seized upon the first pretext to assail the reputation of a true and tried soldier, and the relentless malig-nity with which they continue their assaults, and that in reckless disregard of truth and apparent disposition to remain blind to the real facts connected with the military movements upon which they base heir charges-have induced men to place before the country, through the medium of your paper, some facts connected with Milroy's defense of and final evacuation of

DRALER IN WROUGHT IRON, GALVANIZED, and all sizes of Lead Pipes, Sheet Lead, Brass Cooks and Valves, Steam Whistles, Steam and Water Guages, Lift and Force Pumps, Links, Hose, Antifrictive Metal, Brancer Tin, Zind, Antimony, Cracibels, Islavanized Lightning Rods, Insulators and Points, Lent FOR THE MENEELY BELLS. Aqueduct Phice constantive on hand. correct facts will disclose.

ardice on the part of the General, while at the same time any party so well posted as he presumes to be, must have known that from first to last Gen. Milroy was as much, and most of the time more, exposed to danger than any officer or private in his

Winchester being in an open level country, easily approached on three sides, is naturally, in a military and strategic point of view, a very weak point; but the fact hat the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which the Government has spent millions n guarding, could not be held an hour if Winchester was occupied by a rebel force, and the fact that it is the pathway to Maryland, makes it a point of great importance; and the fortifications covering the place had been so strengthed that the Genines and Liquers, eral felt convinced that he could, as he had for six months, hold the place against all the rebels in Virginia, west of the Blue

thousand seven hundred, including infan-try, cavalry and artillery. With this force WHEELING, VA
KEP constantly on hand Brandies, Scotch and
Irish Whiskies, Jamaica Rums and Cordials
Onoice Old Rye and Bourbon Whiskies. aep27—1y we could undoubtedly have held the place against twice or thrice our number-as indeed we did for three days against seven times our number. It is proper to state in this connection that General Milroy had The Claizen's Deposit Bank DANK OPEN FROM 90 CLOCK A. M., UNTILS
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Thursdays at 10 A.M.

It is connection that ceneral marroy and orders not to keep on hand stores or supplies of any kind, it being intimated that in ease a large force advanced up the value of the connection that ceneral marroy and the connection that ceneral marroy and the connection that ceneral marroy and orders not to keep on hand stores or supplies of any kind, it being intimated that in ease a large force advanced up the value of the connection that ceneral marroy and hence but five days' rations were at any time kept on hand. But from the fact that the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad could be better guarded at this point than any J. R. Miller, Oashier. Geo. K. Wheat, Pres't.

The General nor any of his brother officers, among whom was Gen. Elliott, a West Pointer, dreamed or had reason to suspect that Hooker was unable to keep the army of Lee fully occupied; and the General certainly had reason to believe that if Lee's army should be withdrawn from Hooker's front, that officer, and of course, Gen. Halleck, would be apprized of the fact in time to order him to tall back. But in all this Gen. Milroy was awfully deceived, for the fact is, Lee's army withdrew from Hooker's front, and Halleck seems to-have known nothing of it until the two advance columns of that army had passed through the passes in the Blue Ridge, and sixty thousand strong surrounded Milroy's force

Being desirons of establishing a permanent trade, both in the city and surrounding country, all those who faver me with their patronage can rely on be-ing supplied with the best goods at the lowest fig-On the 12th instant Lee's advance was met on the Front Royal pike, twelve miles east of Winchester, and also on the Strasburg pike. An engagement, or rather skirmish, ensued, our men killing and wounding a number, and taking thirty-O FFICE No. 69 Main street, Wheeling, Va.
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Christian Hoss. seven prisoners. This movement of the

On the next day the enemy advanced in strong force near town, on both pikes, a strong force holding also the road leading to Martinsburg, north of, Winchester, thus catting of all communication with that place, and, of course, intercepting our retreat. At one time they advanced in two lines, five or six thousand strong, across the Strasburg pike. They were met by our boys and handsomely repulsed.

The lighting ceased at dark and recommenced at daylight Sunday morning, and skirmishing, with continued cannonading and occasional hard fighting with small arms, was kept up until 5 o'clock, P. M., when a force of the enemy, twelve thouswhen a force of the enemy, twelve thous-sand strong, with batteries, advanced from the west against our outer works, which, notwithstanding the murderous fire of our artillery and infantry, they carried by storm. They attempted to establish a battery near these works, but our guns drove them off dismounting one of their

The enemy were lying so near that it was impossible to move either the wagons or artillery without giving the alarm, the

forces around the fortifications would come down upon our rear and overwhelm us .-The advance regiments were immediately formed in line of battle, and attacked the rebels with the utmost fury, and for an hour and a half the fighting was desperate. Three times did Gen. Milrey, at the head of his men, charge the enemy, driving him from his guns, but as often the rebels, reinforced, drove us back. In the last charge the general's horse was killed under him by a shell. Hearing the approach of forces from Winchester, as many of our men as could be got together were ordered to move off rapidly by the left flank by the pike which had been cleared of the enemy, but two regiments, the 18th Connecticut and the 1"3d Ohio, having moved further to the right, were surrounded and nearly

The 116th Ohio volunteer infantry and 12th Virginia suffered, the 12th Pennsylvania and 1st New York cavalry, together with many stragglers, and the wagon and artiflery horses susseeded in reaching Pennsylvania with comparatively little loss. About two thousand men, with the General, reached Harper's Ferry, at which place General Tyler was in command by appointment of the President. General Milroy did not, therefore, assume command, but was ordered by Major General Schenck to turn his command over to General Tyler, and report with his staff, at Baltimore.— General Schenck stated the difficulty in placing General Milroy in command at Harper's Ferry, and offered him a leave of absence to visit his home; this he declinsuch danger, he would willingly serve un-der lighter-General Tyler, or any other officer. He, therefore, by permission of General Schenck, proceeded to join his

troops at the Ferry.

The Baltimore & Ohio Bailroad having the Battimore & Onto Rairoad having been tapped by the rebels, he was compell-ed to return to Baltimore, and by order of General Schenck proceeded to Bedford, Pennsylvania, to Forganize the part of his force that had reached that place. He had collected nearly three thousand of his troops at Bloody Run, and was preparing to strike the rebel General Imboden at Mc Connelsburg, when he received an order from General Schenck to turn the com-mand over to Colonel Pearce, of the 12th Pennsylvania cavalry, and report at Baltimore, which he did; and, upon his arrival, was, by a peremptory order of Gen. Hal-

leck, placed under arrest.

True to the high-toned, unselfish patriotism for which he is so justly celebrated and highly esteemed by his troops, he offered to take command of a brigade, regiment or company, or even to fight in the ranks, if relieved from arrest during the present struggle to drive the rebel hordes rom the soil of the loyal States, but even this magnanimous offer was rejected. But to review the facts connected with

the Winchester affair: Ag have stated before, Winchester was regarded by Halleck as being, in a military and stragetic point of view, as a meak point and of no great importance, Harper's Ferry being regarded as the strong point to which the garrison at Winchester would be ordered to full back in case a large force advanced up the Valley but Winchester was regarded as a Valley, but Winchester was regarded as a point of importance in guarding the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, and therefore Milroy was instructed to hold it.

Had General Milroy reasons to suspect that General Lee could withdraw his for-ces from Hooker's front and move them into the Valley without that officer, and of course Gen. Halleck, being aware of it in time to notify the garrison at Winchester to fall back? But what are the facts? Gen. Lee withdrew his forces into Hooker's front, and that officer seems to have known nothing of it until the two advance columns of that army had passed through the gaps n the Blue Ridge and attacked Milroy several days afterward.

One column crossed at and above Front Royal, which is a little southeast of Winchester, and at once attacked the 3d brigade of Milroy's division, stationed at Berryville. This brigade fell back, contesting the rebel advance upon Winchester. The transportation belonging to this brigade was sent to Martinsburg, and through the energy of A. Q. Wyckeff was saved. A part of this column moved across from Berryville to the Martinsburg road; north of Winchester, thus, as before stated, cutting off our line of communication and re-

It is stated that the forces of General Milroy were surprised; this is false. They were not surprised at any point; but, on the contrary, skirmishing with the rebel advance began when the enemy reached the Shenandonh, the 3d brigade contesting their advance from the time they rossed the river. We were at this time, however, under the impression that the movement was only a feint to cover Stu-art's raid, and in this belief the Department at Washington seems to have shared, for General Milroy had orders to hold Winchester, and he received no intimation that Lee's army was in motion.

Every effort on the part of the general was made to determine the strength and designs of the enemy, and on Sunday it became evident that Lee had moved his the slightest investigation would have enforces, or a large part thereof, into the abled that paper truthfully to state that his valley. Under these circumstances what wife and children had not been in Wincheswas Gen. Milroy to do? He had orders to ter for two months prior to the evacuation hold Winchester, orders also not to keep of that place, they having left in April. on hand in any considerable quantity sup-plies of any kind. He had received no notice that the army of Gen. Lee had moved toward the valley until he found two columns of his army opposed to him and his supplies cut off. He had, under instruc-tions, held the place for three days; his supplies were about exhausted; was surrounded by over fifty thousand men; his position was such that batteries could be planted on all sides of him and carried assault. To remain there was simply by assault. To remain there was sim to surrender his force to the rebels. was, therefore, decided in council to cut them in the presence of any of his com their way through the rebel lines, which mand denounce him as cowardly or incom

affairs and the relative strength of the forces, know that the position could not have been held until Monday noon.

or artillery without giving the alarm, the general therefore ordered the guns spiked and the ammunition thrown into the cisters or watered, and about two o'clock our force left the fortifications.

In the to be consured for not knowing Lee's army had left Hooker's front and was term or watered, and about two o'clock our must attach to Hooker and his corps community force left the fortifications.

him? But the facts clearly indicate that the Department at Washington knew nothing of Lee's movement in time to check it, or save Milroy. Milroy was not connected with the Army of the Potomac, nor was he called upon with his small force to partic. ularly watch the movements of Lee's army he certainly having enough to do in guard-ing the Valley north of Winchester, and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad against the rebel forces west of the Blue Ridge .-He was instructed that in case Lee's army moved into the Valley he would be notified and ordered to fall back, and in view of this and in obedience to orders, he had no supplies on hand, and could not, if Winchester had been a second Gibraltar, stood a siege, and subsequent events have shown that it he had held out until to-day no assistance would have reached him.

Surrounded by from forty to sixty thousand rebel troops and out of supplies, he, at the head of his brave boys, cut through the rebel lines and saved three-fourths of his command.

Capt. DeMott, division Quartermaster, out of eight trains—in all about one hun-dred and fifty wagons—saved one hundred and five four-horse teams complete. The Captain also saved nearly all the horses and harness belonging to the other trains, he having mounted his teamsters, dashed with the horses through the breach in the rebel lines, bringing off about three hun-Of clothing, camp and garrison equipage, Capt. DeMott lost less than three

But in regard to Gen. Milroy, who has been so ruthlessly assailed on all sides: Did he disobey orders? No! Then what has there been in his conduct to warrant. his arrest and the assaults of the scribblers of the country? He is charged with cow ardic. The fact is, his reputation for bravery is so well established that it is hardly necessary to reply to this sharge. On this score I will, however, repeat that from first to last no officer or private was more exposed to the bullets of the enemy than the General, and in proof of this I offer the evidence of every soldier who participated in the battles of Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Each charge on Monday morning was led by Gen. Milroy, and where, for a moment, the boys faltered un-der the galling fire of the enemy, he rushed along the line shouting, come on my brave boys, follow me. They did follow

him, and drove twice their number. Who is to blame that our force was surrounded by Lee's army! Is there not an attempt on the part of Generals high in authority to place the evidence of their guilt upon the garments of General Milroy who, with between five and six thousand infantry and parts of three regiments of cavalry, was left to protect the valley north of Winchester and guard the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and the pass to Maryland? Gertainly enough for his small force. And yet one would suppose from the tone of the New York Herald, and the manner in which the General-in-Chief has dealt with him, that he was not only to guard the Balti-

and skillful officer, was outgeneraled-Lee our generals leaving his front and passing into the valley without his detecting the movement in time to disturb the rebel General's plan.

Like Macbeth, they have smeared the blood upon the garments of another, that they might appear guiltless and innocent at the disaster their stapidity has entailed upon the country. The truth is, performed his part nobly, resisting the advance of Lee's army, and when finally surrounded by from forty to fifty theusand rebel troops, cut his way through, saving three tourths of his command; and yet, t hide the stupid incompetency that is so clearly manifest in another quarter, he is placed under arrest, and that in the face of an evidence of his worth as a soldier be the remonstrance of two of the best Major Generals in the army, and the earnest so lead them.

It is true Gen. Milroy was not gree out at West Point. Others of our best Generals have been equally unfortunate, and have suffered the penalty which attaches to the misfortune. Among them we name Sigel and Waltace. He has also incurred the displeasure of

kind. Its articles on Milroy are all gotten up with the most rigid economy of truth. Among other things, that General Milroy meanly abandoned his wife and children "Let justice be done though the heavens justly belongs, but do not sacrifice a brave and successful soldier to hide the blundering incompetency and reckless stupidity of high officials. If Gen. Milroy was incompetent or cowardly, none would have de-tected it sooner than the soldiers under his command, and none would have been more severe in their condemnation; but truth is that his men are to a man enthusiastic in his favor, and if any one is enrious to test the truth of this statement, let

I am aware that a letter appeared in the Baltimore American, in which the writer presumed to insinuate that Milroy had behaved badly and been unskillful in his management. It is easy to be wise, after the tact. This Col. —, the author of the letter referred to, could easily see the importance, after Milroy had been surrounded, of having evacuated the place several days before. Of the fight ou Monday the general therefore ordered the guns spiked let's army had left Hooker's front and was and the ammunition thrown into the cisters or watered, and about two o'clock our force left the fortifications.

Four miles from Wischester, on the Martinsburg road, we encountered a rebel

force ten or twelve thousand strong, with two batteries of artillery, posted in a woods flanking and crossing the road, under General "Allegheny" Johnson.

The general knew no protracted fight could take place for general knew no protracted fight could take place here, as in that case the in permitting the army of General Milroy is feelingly sympathizes with binageneral, is feelingly sympathizes with binageneral, is feelingly sympathizes with binageneral, is a sympathize of knewn to have a great dislike for General sympathizes. in permitting the army of General Milroy feelingly sympathizes with bimagenral, is to be surrounded, giving him no notice of known to have a great dislike for General the overwhelming force moving against Milroy as well as great skill in keeping out of danger during an engagement.
What are General Milroy's antecedents

efficient officer. At the breaking out of the present rebellion he recruited a company in twenty-four hours, was chosen captain, and, when the regiment to which his company was attached was organized, he was chosen colonel. At the close of the three months' service he returned home. remained but four days with his family, a the end of which time he proceeded to re cruit his regiment for the war, which he accomplished in a very short time and at his own expense. With his campaign in Western Virginia, while colonel of the 9th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, all are familiar; suffice it to say that for meritorious service he was appointed brigadier-general.

Acting in that capacity and with a com-

paratively small brigade he cleared his district not only of the regularly organized rebel forces, but guerrillas, driving then all before him beyond the Shenandoah mountains, and advancing his own forces to within thirteen miles of Staunton. At McDowell the brigade of Gen. Shenck was united with his to repel the advance of "Stonewall's" army, and compelled him to fall back ten miles. Our forces then fell back to Franklin, it being impossible for our small force to successfully contend against Jackson's whole army. We did

thousand dollars worth. The regimental quartermasters had but a few articles of any kind on hand.

At the battle of Cross Keys Milroy fought in the centre and forced the rebels back more than a mile in front, while at other points—to say the least—they held their laws of the suscendence.

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But in regard to Gen. Milroy, who has own. When the command passed to Gen. Sigel, so favorably impressed was that distinguished officer with Milroy, that he gave him an independent brigade, placing it on the same footing with a division, and gave him the advance. He was in all the battles under Gen. Pope, in each of which he behaved with marked gallantry. Bull's Run No. 2, among others, Milroy was sent to assist in retrieving the fortunes of the day, on the left. In the thickest of the fight he led his brigade—his men fighting like devils until their ammunition was exhausted-when they went to the rear.

This was the most critical period of that battle; this was when our left was pressed with the greatest determination by the rebels; when the preservation of our shat-tered forces depended upon the enemy being held firmly or driven back. It was then that Gen. Milroy, through either Lieuts. Este or Chesebrough, (both of whom, after Gen. Schenck was wounded, reported to him for duty, and, by the way, fought splendidly,) asked Gen. McDowell for a division or brigade to check the fury of the rebels. But a few hundred yards north of where they were fighting, in a little valley, a large number of regiments were huddled together in inextricable confusion; here, too, our long trains were choked up in the road; and the General well knew that if our forces were driven back a large number of our men and our traies would be captured. And yet, according to the Herald's ideas, it was madness in him

It is stated in some of the prominent papers that General Milroy could easily have concentrated from other points a force of fifteen thousand men. This is simply a falsehood, and I have no doubt its author knew it at the time.

The truth is that the concentrated from other points a force of fifteen thousand men. This is simply a falsehood, and I have no doubt its author knew it at the time. The truth is that Hooker, though a brave | the disease being communicated to more of

So much confidence had the people of West Virginia in the skillfulness and patriotism of this officer, that they, through their Governor, applied several times to have him placed in command of the de-partment of that new State. When, in September, 1862, he was sent to West Vir-ginia, Sigel applied to have him placed in command of a brigade or division in his

By patriotic devotion to the country, and hard lighting in defense of its sacred insti-tutions, he has wen the confidence of his troops as well as that of the corps com manders with whom he has fought, and as was promoted to Major General.

I have not given the details of the fight

licitation of his troops that he should still at Winchester. The officers and men, with hardly an exception, fought like Spartans. The General's official report will, I doubt not, do justice to their courage and zeal. My object has been to defend the character of Gen. Milroy against the attacks of malignant friends. I do this at the earnest solicitations of many officers and soldiers

certain papers by not being a pro-slavery man. The Herald has an attack of this P. C. HILDRETH & BRO 53 Main Street, Wheeling, Va. WHOLESALE DEALERS IN

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I. I. H. begs leave to refer those to whom he is unknown to Gee, W. Smith, Esq., to the officers of the banks in Wheeling and Bridgeport, and to his students.

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From the Baltimore American.

Winchester. In the report furnished the New York Herald by its correspondent, there is to those who are acquainted with the facts, one of two things evident: either woeful ignorance on the part of the correspondent, or a desire to injure the reputation of Gen. Milroy. Whether the latter supposition is

I will only say, in this connection, that the Herald's correspondent insinuates cow-

Our effective force at Winchester was six

other, General Milroy was ordered to hold

at Winchester, some four days after.

enemy was regarded as a mere feint to cover Stuart's much talked of raid. On the next day the enemy advanced in

gans and blowing up one caisson. Dark.

uess now put an end to the conflict. Our
stock of provisions was nearly exhausted,
and the general became satisfied that the
enemy would mass his forces and plant
batteries on all sides of us for the final
assault in the morning. A council of war
was called, in which it was determined to

gantle the place.

shell profit such a state of the porton are the received A FSW seals of No seal and LOGAN, LUTE & CO. 10709 not the Various at the Various and LOGAN, LUTE & CO. 10709 not the Various at the Various at

tended, and the float idersee Mayound de, question of thus. The fall of Fort Wags Bill No. 8 allowing forther time for officers shall livered the cretion, an effect characterized ner ends in the fall of Charleston. Fort to qualify and the passage without amend. Jam

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